

10/689,647
DOCKET NO. 02FI003US

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REMARKS

Claims 1-39 and 42 -55 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 38 and 53-55 are amended to more clearly define the invention and claims 40-41 are canceled. Claims 1-3, 18-20, 38, and 53 are independent.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to the Applicants' representative during multiple telephone conferences on July 11, 2005, July 22, 2005, August 8, 2005, and August 12, 2005 and Examiner Santo's review of a proposed amendment to claims 38 and 53. During the telephone interviews, Examiner Santos agreed that the above-amendments overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 38-55. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 1-39 and 42 -55 are allowable and that the application is now in condition for allowance.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above place the application into condition for allowance, narrow the issues for appeal and since such features and their distinctions over the prior art of record were discussed earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicant earnestly solicits entry. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and the agreement reached during

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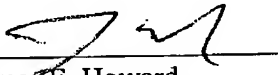
the telephone interviews, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-39 and 42 -55, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

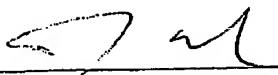
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Robert G. Santos, Group Art Unit 3673 at fax number (571) 273-8300 this 8th day of September, 2005.


James E. Howard, Esq.
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